



SUSILO BAMBANG YUDHOYONO

PRESIDENT OF INDONESIA 2004-2014



PRESIDENT **SUSILO BAMBANG YUDHOYONO** is the political leader of the most populous Muslim country in the world (236 million people). Commonly referred to as SBY, he has had marked influence over the country as the first directly elected president of Indonesia, and over the world as a champion of anti-terrorism efforts and a beacon of democracy in the Muslim world. He has been praised both at home and abroad for instituting processes to tackle the widespread corruption in Indonesian public life and in reinforcing the mandate of the Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK).

President Yudhoyono came to power after a successful career with the Indonesian National Army as a four-star general where he was dubbed “the thinking general” for his efforts toward military reform. This reputation, and a pristine political career with the administrations of former Presidents Abdurrahman Wahid and Megawati Sukarnoputri are the basis upon which the Democratic Party was founded in 2001. This new political party was founded on Pancasila: five basic principles (belief in the Oneness of God, just and civilised humanity, the unity of Indonesia, democracy, and social justice) with the goal of launching Yudhoyono’s candidacy for the 2004 elections. Since then, he has become increasingly influential as a beacon of democracy in a country historically marred by corruption and political instability. He was re-elected for a second and final five-year term in October 2009.



Besides proposing military reform, President Yudhoyono has been recognised for his efforts to establish regional autonomy laws and resolve the separatist conflict in the Aceh and Papua provinces. He has also been credited for reviving the economy, and for his market-friendly approach to reform. He works closely with the Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK) to clean up graft and corruption in Indonesia. The resulting economic and political stability has been attributed to his unique influence and the power of his personal leadership in the country.